

What is claimed is:

1. An absorbable polymer for biomedical and pharmaceutical applications comprising a segmented copolyester having at least one side group comprising a succinic anhydride moiety per chain.
2. An absorbable polymer as in claim 1 made by the process comprising the steps of:
 - providing an absorbable, segmented copolyester; and
 - reacting the copolyester with maleic anhydride in the presence of a free-radical initiator.
3. An absorbable polymer as in claim 2 wherein the step of reacting the copolyester with maleic anhydride is achieved in an organic solvent.
4. An absorbable polymer as in claim 2 wherein the step of providing an absorbable, segmented copolyester comprises copolymerizing two or more cyclic monomers selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, ϵ -caprolactone, glycolide, lactide, p-dioxanone, and 1,5-dioxepan-2-one.
5. An absorbable polymer as in claim 2 wherein the step of providing an absorbable, segmented copolyester comprises end-grafting a polyalkylene succinate with one or more cyclic monomers selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, ϵ -caprolactone, glycolide, lactide, p-dioxanone, and 1,5-dioxepan-2-one.
6. An absorbable polymer as in claim 5 wherein the polyalkylene succinate comprises polytrimethylene succinate.
7. An absorbable polymer as in claim 5 wherein the polyalkylene succinate comprises polyethylene succinate.
8. An absorbable polymer as in claim 2 wherein the step of providing an absorbable, segmented copolyester comprises end-grafting a polyalkylene glycol with one or

more cyclic monomers selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, ϵ -caprolactone, glycolide, lactide, p-dioxanone, and 1,5-dioxepan-2-one.

9. An absorbable polymer as in claim 8 wherein the polyalkylene glycol comprises polyethylene glycol.
10. An absorbable polymer as in claim 8 wherein the polyalkylene glycol comprises a block copolymer comprising polyoxyethylene and polyoxypropylene components.
11. An absorbable polymer as in claim 2 further comprising the step of hydrolyzing the anhydride moiety, thereby forming at least one dicarboxylic acid side group per chain.
12. An absorbable polymer as in claim 1 wherein the polymer is a liquid at room temperature.
13. An absorbable polymer comprising a functionalized block copolymer of polyethylene glycol and propylene glycol, the block copolymer comprising more than three carboxyl groups per chain.
14. An absorbable polymer as in claim 13 made by the process comprising the steps of:
 - providing a block copolymer of polyethylene glycol and propylene glycol;
 - reacting the block copolymer with an unsaturated anhydride selected from the group consisting of maleic anhydride and itaconic anhydride in the presence of a free-radical initiator; and
 - hydrolyzing the resultant anhydride bearing block copolymer.
15. An absorbable polymer as in claim 13 wherein the polymer is a liquid at room temperature.
16. A liquid absorbable polymer comprising a polyester having at least two carboxyl groups per chain.

17. A liquid absorbable polymer as in claim 16 made by the process comprising the step of polymerizing at least one cyclic monomer in the presence of a hydroxy carboxylic acid initiator.
18. A liquid absorbable polymer as in claim 17 wherein the step of polymerizing at least one cyclic monomer in the presence of a hydroxy carboxylic acid initiator comprises polymerizing a mixture of trimethylene carbonate and glycolide in the presence of malic acid.
19. A liquid absorbable polymer as in claim 17 wherein the step of polymerizing at least one cyclic monomer in the presence of a hydroxy carboxylic acid initiator comprises polymerizing a mixture of trimethylene carbonate and dl-lactide in the presence of malic acid.
20. A liquid absorbable polymer as in claim 17 wherein the step of polymerizing at least one cyclic monomer in the presence of a hydroxy carboxylic acid initiator comprises polymerizing a mixture of trimethylene carbonate and dl-lactide in the presence of citric acid.